



**Where All Families Matter.**



[www.PFLAGPgh.org](http://www.PFLAGPgh.org)

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## The Pittsburgh PFLAGer

## PFLAG Pittsburgh's Monthly Newsletter

### Volume 19, Number 02

#### Inside Our November 2016 Edition of the Pittsburgh PFLAGer:

- A Letter from Our President
- PFLAG Pgh on PFLAG Nat. Site
- About PFLAG Academy Webinar
- Holiday Shopping
- Transgender Day of Remembrance
- Membership Drive
- Butler Interfaith Event
- Gay Christian Network Conference
- LGBTQ Justice
- Mississippi
- Current Events
- **AND MORE!**

#### Our Next Meeting:

**Sunday, November 13**

#### *Meeting Information:*

2:00PM Meeting Begins  
2:15-3:30PM Small Group  
Sessions  
3:45-4:30PM Educational  
Program

Third Presbyterian Church  
5701 Fifth Ave.  
Fifth & Negley Aves. 15232

#### Educational Program:

**Sarah Rosso,**  
Persad Center

#### **PFLAG VISION:**

PFLAG envisions a world where diversity is celebrated and all people are respected, valued, and affirmed inclusive of their sexual orientation, gender identity, and gender expression.

#### **PFLAG MISSION:**

By meeting people where they are and collaborating with others, PFLAG realizes its vision through:

- Support for families, allies and people who are LGBTQ
- Education for ourselves and others about the unique issues and challenges facing people who are LGBTQ
- Advocacy in our communities to change attitudes and create policies and laws that achieve full equality for people who are LGBTQ

**Contact Info:**

**Website:**

[www.PFLAGPgh.org](http://www.PFLAGPgh.org)

**Facebook:**

[www.facebook.com/PFLAGPgh](http://www.facebook.com/PFLAGPgh)

**Twitter:**

<http://twitter.com/PFLAGPgh>

**Email:**

[info@PFLAGPgh.org](mailto:info@PFLAGPgh.org)

**Phone:**

(412)833-4556

**Mail:**

P.O. Box 5406  
Pittsburgh, PA 15206



**Chapter Officials:**

**President:**

Mitchell Hortert

**Treasurer:**

Kelley Moten

**Secretary**

Jason Lucarelli

**Advocacy Chairperson:**

Moira Myers

**Support Chairperson:**

Norman Brown

**Education Chairperson:**

Brandon Harper

**Speaker's Bureau**

Donni Smith

**Chapter Librarian:**

Pam Richards

**At-Large:**

Allen Wolk & Elaine Cummings,  
Ann Aya

**Snacks**

One simple way to help out at PFLAG Pgh is to bring a snack! It doesn't have to be a four-course dinner, just a snack that you'd like to share with the group! Any contributions are greatly appreciated.

**Contributions?**

Have a suggestion for the newsletter? Please respond to one of our emails with your ideas! We are always looking to provide the latest information to our chapter members and look forward to serving your needs in the future!

## A Minute with Mitch: A Letter from the President....

Dear Fellow PFLAGers,

The first United States Presidential election was held from Monday, December 15, 1788, to Saturday, January 10, 1789. Things have drastically changed since 1788- many places now vote electronically and as a result of improved technology, voting takes place in one day rather than approximately one month



(although as we saw in the 2000 election, final results can be determined weeks later!) Another difference between the elections in 1788 and today is that George Washington ran virtually unopposed were as today, we see multiple candidates vying for our nation's highest elected office.

Whether it is 1788 or today, one thing remains- voting is hugely important. As my seventh grade American History teacher, Mr. Schwartz once said, "You don't have a right to complain if you don't vote!" At that time, he was encouraging us to "nag" our parents to vote since we were too young to do so ourselves. I firmly believe that we get the government we vote for, or don't vote for- depending on if you cast a ballot or not.

When voting, you are not only voting for a particular candidate, but also their positions on particular policies, issues and ideas. ***We at PFLAG Pittsburgh cannot and will not endorse a particular candidate***; however, we do support policies and have positions on particular issues.

When going to the polls this month, please think about policies and positions. Get to know a candidate's position or beliefs before casting your vote. The next four years will be historic to say the least regardless of who is elected. To read more about PFLAG National's position on policies, please visit the following link: <https://www.pflag.org/wherewestand>

While on their website, take a look at the bottom right corner of the home page- PFLAG Pittsburgh was listed on their front page!

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "M Hortert".

Mitchell  
President of PFLAG Pittsburgh



# PFLAG Pittsburgh News



Select Language ▾



FIND A CHAPTER

NEED SUPPORT?

LEAVE THIS SITE NOW

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[Our Priorities](#)

[Our Work](#)

[Take Action](#)

[Chapter Network](#)

[News & Events](#)

Check out [www.pflag.org](http://www.pflag.org)! PFLAG Pittsburgh is featured on the front page!!



### Where to Find Trans Resources

Without a major city or metropolitan area to draw people, PFLAG-NH, for example, tries to reach out by holding its regional meetings.



### TransGriot: PFLAG TX v US Statement

"Thanks Jody and PFLAG for having the trans community's backs as standup allies even when it wasn't the cool thing to do..."



### PFLAG Pittsburgh a Crucial Resource

Pittsburgh-based organizations such as PFLAG have made a handful of efforts to educate Beaver County residents about LGBTQ issues...



### About PFLAG Academy Online:

PFLAG Academy Online brings free, monthly, PFLAG members-only training opportunities with core educational programs right to your computer screen. Benefit from PFLAG's great learning options, informed staff, and input from other participants without leaving home. All you'll need is a computer (or mobile device) and the drive to move equality forward!

In the coming months, be on the lookout for brand new sessions, including one on conflict resolution as well as core-skill building sessions on creating a thriving chapter, support group facilitation, and more! You may also email [info@pflag.org](mailto:info@pflag.org) or your [Field Manager](#) for more details about how to access past sessions on-demand so you can use PFLAG Academy Online as a resource for developing the leadership pipeline for your chapter.

### Additional Information:

- [ReadyTalk Registration Information](#)
- [How do I know that my computer will be able to connect?](#)
- [Other Frequently Asked Questions \(FAQs\) about webinars.](#)

## Transgender Day of Remembrance (November 20, 2016)

By Brandon Harper MSPC, NCC, of PFLAG Pittsburgh

Transgender Day of Remembrance (TDOR) is a day to memorialize those who have been killed as a result of transphobia / transprejudice, and acts to bring attention to the continued violence endured by the transgender community. The Transgender Day of Remembrance was founded in 1998 by Gwendolyn Ann Smith, a transgender graphic designer, columnist, and activist, to memorialize the murder of Rita Hester in Allston, Massachusetts. Since its inception, TDOR has been held annually on 20 November, and has slowly evolved from the web-based project started by Smith into an international day of action. Typically, a TDOR memorial includes a reading of the names of those who lost their lives during the previous year and may include other actions, such as candlelight vigils, art shows, food drives, film screenings, and marches, among others. The Transgender Day of Remembrance is the culmination of Transgender Awareness Week.



While transgender visibility and acceptance has increased in society, unfortunately, violence against trans people does still exist -- especially transgender women of color -- remains a national plague. According to [recent statistics from the Human Rights Campaign](#), at least 13 transgender women were slain last year in the United States and the count was up to at least 18 victims in August 2015 (Wikipedia). Of those 31, all but one were black or Latina. The community still fears reporting cases to police, and many hate crimes/murders on transpeople go unreported to the media.

### References:

- <http://www.cnn.com/2015/04/23/living/transgender-moment-jenner-feat/>
- [https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/List\\_of\\_unlawfully\\_killed\\_transgender\\_people](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/List_of_unlawfully_killed_transgender_people)

## Are You an Early Holiday Shopper?

Here at PFLAG Pittsburgh, we know it may be a little early to think about your holiday shopping list; however, for those who are early birds or would like to get ahead, PFLAG Pittsburgh has a suggestion for you! Do you have someone on your holiday shopping list that you don't have a clue what to buy? Have you considered making a donation to PFLAG Pgh for the holiday season? Please consider donating a book or DVD to the PFLAG Pgh. library. You could make a holiday gift or other donation in honor or memory of a loved one. There will be a very nice formal recognition placed inside the book/DVD cover to acknowledge the donation. Please contact our chapter librarian at the next meeting for a wish list of items that our chapter would like to get for the library.



## Amazon Smile

Do you shop on [Amazon.com](http://Amazon.com)? PFLAG Pgh is registered with AmazonSmile where they donate 0.5% of the price of your eligible AmazonSmile purchases to PFLAG Pgh. AmazonSmile is the **same** Amazon you know. You can get the **same** products, **same** prices, **same** service, **same** Amazon everything. The only difference is that Amazon will donate to PFLAG Pgh each time you shop! Visit [smile.amazon.com](http://smile.amazon.com) for more details and search PFLAG Pittsburgh.



*"The only thing they have to look forward to is hope.  
And you have to give them hope. Hope for a better world,  
hope for a better tomorrow...hope that all will be all right."  
- Harvey Milk*

## ADVOCACY ALERT! Update from Butler

By Moira Myers, PFLAG Pgh Advocacy Chair

On October 27<sup>th</sup>, the mayor presented a resolution, not an ordinance for the city not to discriminate against anyone because He is against passing the ordinance. City Council voted "NO" on the resolution that was presented. In the upcoming days, PFLAG Butler will meet with church groups and with one member of council to try working out some wording. If they can't come to an agreement, the ordinance will then be voted on. Below is the contact information for each council person. Please email them and ask for them to vote for the ordinance. Below is a sample letter asking for them to vote.

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City Mayor

Thomas P. Donaldson  
 [\(724\) 285.4124 ext. 206](tel:(724)285.4124)  
Fax:  [\(724\) 285-6880](tel:(724)285-6880)  
[citymayor@zoominternet.net](mailto:citymayor@zoominternet.net)

City Council Members:

Michael E. Walter  
Director of Accounts and Finance  
 [\(724\) 285-4124 ext.353](tel:(724)285-4124)  
[michaelwalter@zoominternet.net](mailto:michaelwalter@zoominternet.net)

Kathy Kline  
Director of Public Safety  
 [\(724\) 285-4124 ext. 354](tel:(724)285-4124)  
[writerbug@zoominternet.net](mailto:writerbug@zoominternet.net)

Corey D. Roche  
Director of Parks/Recreation and Public Property  
 [\(724\) 285-4124 ext.315](tel:(724)285-4124)  
[coreyroche@zoominternet.net](mailto:coreyroche@zoominternet.net)

Kenneth E. Bonus  
Director of Streets & Public Improvements  
 [\(724\) 285-4124 ext. 355](tel:(724)285-4124)  
[kenny@bonusaccounting.com](mailto:kenny@bonusaccounting.com)

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Dear [Name]

Thank you for your consideration of the non-discrimination ordinance. Show the rest of the state and the country that the City of Butler is an inclusive area where all are welcome. Vote for making the non-discrimination clause law.

Thank you for your time.  
Sincerely,  
<Insert YOUR Name Here>

### The Gay Christian Network Annual Conference

Forty-eight states and several countries were represented at last year's conference in Houston, TX. Nearly 200 parents attended, along with a number of pastors seeking a more loving approach to LGBT people than the church has historically demonstrated. The conference moves around the country. It will be in Pittsburgh January 5-8, 2017. It is a unique opportunity for people in our geographic area to participate, by offering financial support, promoting the conference in our church and community, and/or attending the conference. This year's theme is: "Stories Inspire!"

Keynote speakers include: Retired Episcopal Bishop Gene Robinson, Paula Williams (national trans advocate and former megachurch pastor), and Jane Clementi (mother of Tyler Clementi and founder of Tyler Clementi Foundation).

In addition to the daily keynotes, each day's schedule includes a variety of breakout workshops from which to choose, with suggested "tracks" for parents, side B participants, pastors, allies, etc. to help guide workshop choices. There are also optional opportunities to connect (a parent lunch on Friday, a service project, and a women's retreat prior to conference). There will also be live performances by Everyday Sunday and Bobby Jo Valentine. Sunday worship concludes the conference.



Costs: Registration fees range from \$145 (early bird) to \$185 (on site). There are reduced rates for college students (\$85) and groups of 5 or more. First time attendees can register for half price if they register with someone who has previously attended. The conference rate for the hotel (Westin Convention Center) is \$129/night. Meals are on your own, but bringing food along can reduce the cost. \*\*\*SCHOLARSHIPS ARE AVAILABLE TO DEFER REGISTRATION AND HOTEL COSTS FOR FIRST-TIME ATTENDEES.\*\*\*

More Information: You can register on line or get more information at <https://www.gcnconf.com>

## Butler LGBTQ Interfaith Network 5<sup>TH</sup> Anniversary Events



Contact: [butlerinterfaith@zoominternet.net](mailto:butlerinterfaith@zoominternet.net)  
724-991-1089  
All events take place at:  
Covenant Presbyterian  
230 E. Jefferson St.  
Butler, PA 16001



**November 13**  
**3:00pm**

Discussion Film  
"The Danish Girl"

Light Snacks  
Provided

A story inspired by the lives of Danish artists Lili Elbe and Gerda Wegener. Lili and Gerda's marriage and work evolve as they navigate Lili's groundbreaking journey as a transgender pioneer.

**November 20**  
**4:30 – 6:45pm**

Social Justice  
Open House

Light Snacks  
Available



**\*"Shower of the Stoles" Exhibit** 100 will be on display

An extraordinary collection of over one thousand liturgical stoles representing the lives of lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender (LGBT) people of faith. These religious leaders have served in over thirty denominations and faith traditions, and come from six countries on three continents. This collection celebrates the gifts of LGBT persons who serve God in countless ways, while also lifting up those who have been excluded from service because of their sexual orientation or gender identity.

**\*"SERRV" presentation & sale**

Highlights 3rd world hand-made crafters & the fair-trade initiative of 85 producing groups in 40 countries. **Consignment Items for sale.**

**\*Underground Railroad tour** (weather permitting)

Explore Covenant Presbyterian's stop on the national underground railroad of the 1800's. The congregation has been involved in social justice for over 200 years!

**November 20**  
**7:00pm**

5<sup>th</sup> Anniversary  
Worship Service

Food Fellowship  
To Follow



A special service for LGBTQ persons, their families & friends, and straight allies. Join us for meaningful readings, glorious music, and messages of love, inclusion, & hope. We are all God's children and are all a vital part of his Kingdom. **Our collected offering will benefit the Shower of the Stoles Project.** Please stay after for a time of food & fellowship.

## PFLAG Pittsburgh's October 24, 2016 Board Mtg. Agenda

In an attempt to continue with our organization's transparency, below is the outline from our October 24, 2016 board meeting. If you have questions about the items or would like to get involved with a project, please contact one of the above listed board members for more information.

### **Attendance:**

- Present: Mitch Hortert (President), Kelley Moten (Treasurer), Jason Lucarelli (Secretary), Norman Brown (Support Chair), Moira Myers (Advocacy Chairperson), Elaine Cummings (At-large), Allen Wolk (At-large)
- Absent: Pam Richards (Librarian), Brandon Harper (Education Chairperson), Donni Smith (Speaker's Bureau)

### **Treasurer:** *Kelley*

- Update on Checking Account Signatures

### **Support:** *Norman*

### **Education:** *Brandon*

- November 2016: Sarah Rosso, Persad Foster Parenting
- December 2016: Arlene Baratz, Intersex
- January 2017 : Rev. Dr. Paula Williams

### **Speakers Bureau:** *Donni*

- Upcoming: Unitarian Universalist Church (Mt. Lebanon) Nov. 14.

### **Advocacy:** *Moira*

- Tabling- Resource Fairs: North Allegheny (Nov. 30; 6-8p) & PPSD @ Obama (Nov. 17; 10-12p)

### **Library:**

#### **Old Business:**

- Sales tax exemption: Kelley still working on this.
- "Care with Pride" Campaign
- WPA Regional Meeting October 15<sup>th</sup>

#### **New Business:**

- Vote on Ann Aya as At-Large board member
- Amending bylaws and creating policy documentation
- Roles of Board Members
- Anything else?

#### **Future Board Meeting Dates:**

- November- Move one week prior due to Holiday?
- No Board Meeting in December- Happy Holidays!
- January 23, 2017
- February 26, 2017
- March 26, 2017
- April 23, 2017
- May 22, 2017
- June 26, 2017
- July 24, 2017
- August 28, 2017
- September 25, 2017
- October 23, 2017
- November 27, 2017
- No Board Meeting in December

Adjourned



## **Our Annual Membership Drive...**

Did you know that October began a new fiscal year for PFLAG Pittsburgh? As a nonprofit organization, we are in existence due to the generous donations that you provide to us. One way you can give is by renewing your membership with PFLAG Pittsburgh. You can do this several ways. One is by going on to our website (<http://www.pflagpgh.org>) and utilizing the payment options on our homepage. You may also make a donation at one of our monthly meetings. \$15 of your annual membership goes to PFLAG National and the rest remains with us. Any and all donations are greatly appreciated and we thank you for all that you do for us whether it is monetary or by your generous volunteerism. Here at PFLAG Pittsburgh, we greatly appreciate YOU!

# LGBTQ+ Stories:

## From Across the Globe to Around the Corner

### Mississippi asks court to uphold law allowing discrimination against LGBT people

By Emily Wagster Pettus of the *Associated Press*

JACKSON, Miss. (AP) — [Mississippi](#)'s Republican governor is asking a federal appeals court to uphold a state law letting merchants and government employees cite religious beliefs to deny services to same-sex couples.

U.S. District Judge Carlton Reeves blocked the “religious objections” law moments before it was to take effect July 1, ruling that it unconstitutionally establishes preferred beliefs and creates unequal treatment for lesbian, gay, [bisexual](#) and [transgender](#) people.

The law championed and signed by Gov. Phil Bryant sought to protect three beliefs: Marriage is only between a man and a woman; sex should only take place in such a marriage; and a person's gender is determined at birth and cannot be altered.

Mississippi Democratic Attorney General Jim Hood declined to appeal Reeves' ruling. The governor's appeal is instead being handled by private attorneys, including some working for Alliance Defending Freedom, an Arizona-based Christian legal group that helped write the measure. Bryant signed it into law last April.

The law “gives the opponents of [same-sex marriage](#) the same conscientious-objector protections that federal law confers on the opponents of warfare, abortion, capital punishment and physician-assisted [suicide](#),” attorneys for the governor wrote in arguments filed Wednesday at the 5th U.S. Circuit Court of Appeals.

To read more, please visit: <http://www.lgbtqnation.com/2016/11/mississippi-asks-court-uphold-law-allowing-discrimination-lgbt-people/>



### Christian bookstore chain bans author because she dared to support LGBTQ rights

by Dawn Ennis of [LGBT Nation](#)

Popular Christian author Jen Hatmaker is responding to the move by LifeWay Christian Stores to pull her books from its shelves because she affirmed the legitimacy of same-sex relationships and [same-sex marriage](#).

The LGBTQ community, she wrote on [Facebook](#), “are your neighbors, your colleagues, they are in your churches already, some of them are in your homes, some of them are your children and you don't know it.”

“Most of them are quiet because they are scared. With good and obvious reason. But they are beautiful people loved by Jesus and no matter what, we should speak in a way befitting the way of grace, the same way that found and saved and redeemed and healed us too. Please don't mistakenly take me to the mat in public or private and imagine it doesn't carry weight with tender, beloved people who are bearing witness to all this.”

The controversy began when she answered a question posed by [Religion News Service's](#) commentator, Jonathan Merritt: “Politically speaking, do you support [gay marriage](#)?” Hatmaker shocked many when she said, yes, as follows:

“From a civil rights and civil liberties side and from just a human being side, any two adults have the right to choose who they want to love. And they should be afforded the same legal protections as any of us. I would never wish anything less for my gay friends.

To read more, please visit: <http://www.lgbtqnation.com/2016/11/christian-bookstore-chain-bans-author-dared-support-lgbtq-rights/>



## **BLOG: As Gay Dads, We're Raising A Son Accepting Of Himself And Others**

By BJ Barone and Frankie Nelson posted via [The Huffington Post](#)

I was riding the subway home on October 11, which happened to be National Coming Out Day, and there were posters for [PFLAG](#) (Parents, Families, Friends & Allies of Toronto's LGBTQ community) posted in the subway station that had me thinking.

There were several posters like this one in the subway: [See image to right] The words in this poster are the exact ones I said to my parents. It was the hardest thing I had to do, yet it was the most freeing thing I could have ever done. It allowed me to finally be myself, it allowed me to finally be happy and it allowed me to live my true authentic life.

Seeing these posters brought me back to the night I came out.

I remember when I came out to my mom I wasn't sure how she would react. I was nervous and scared. I was afraid of being rejected for being who I am. I was afraid she wouldn't love me anymore. It was just her and I. We were having dinner and I said to her, trying to hold back tears, "Mom I have something to tell you. Before anything happens to you or Papa I want you to know who I am. Mom, I'm gay." And then I burst out crying.

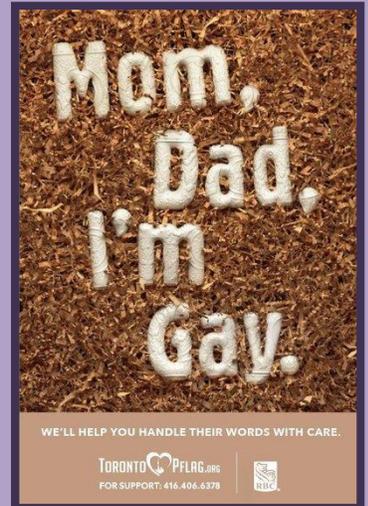
The first thing she did was hug me and said, "You are my son, and I love you no matter what."

I was relieved, I was happy, I was free. The closet can be a dark place, but opening that door and stepping into the room made life bright and worth living.

Although my parents are accepting, they had struggled with it. They sought help and guidance to help them understand what I was going through, as well as to help them understand how to deal with their feelings.

As a parent, we always want what is best for our kids. Now being a dad, I of course only want the best for my son. I could never imagine any parent not being there for his or her child. Not supporting them, not loving them. Unfortunately not everyone has parents who accept them and love them for who they are. I could never fathom a parent disowning his or her child, abandoning them and not loving them unconditionally.

To read more, please visit: [http://www.huffingtonpost.com/bj-barone-and-frankie-nelson/gay-fatherhood-acceptance\\_b\\_12749324.html?section=us\\_queer-voices](http://www.huffingtonpost.com/bj-barone-and-frankie-nelson/gay-fatherhood-acceptance_b_12749324.html?section=us_queer-voices)



## **Back to School for LGBTQ Justice**

By Rev. Cedric A. Harmon of [The Huffington Post](#)

By now, students in our nations' K-12 schools, colleges, and universities have settled into classes for the Fall. We're also just completing LGBTQ History Month, and as a person who has dedicated my life to seeking equality for LGBTQ people around the world, I am concerned about how the most historically marginalized LGBTQ students — usually students of color — are faring in our schools.

Ideally, these students would receive a fair education free of hostilities and discrimination. They would feel that they belong in their educational communities, which would, in turn, stimulate and enhance their learning. But, more than ever before, discriminatory policies and unwelcoming climates have intensified these students' pleas for a safe, high-quality educational environment where they can be their true selves.

Just over two months ago, the Supreme Court granted an "emergency" stay to stop Gavin Grimm, a transgender male student, from using the boys' restroom at Gloucester High School in Virginia. When he began his senior year of school in September, Gavin could not access the bathroom that reflects his gender identity. The decision was a setback in the longstanding civil rights struggle for fair, desegregated access to public accommodations.

Grimm's school is a public school, but LGBTQ students suffer the same abusive policies at private schools. At the beginning of last month, advocates discovered that the Catholic Dioceses of Little Rock, Arkansas had added a new addendum to the student handbook prohibiting the expression of "same-sex attraction," and demanding that, "all students are expected to conduct themselves at school in a manner consistent with their biological sex." Openly LGBTQ students are subject to expulsion, according to the handbook, which governs conduct for approximately 6,700 students in 27 K-12 Little Rock Catholic schools.

To read more, please visit: [http://www.huffingtonpost.com/entry/back-to-school-for-lgbt-justice\\_us\\_5817e06ce4b08301d33e0da0?section=us\\_queer-voices](http://www.huffingtonpost.com/entry/back-to-school-for-lgbt-justice_us_5817e06ce4b08301d33e0da0?section=us_queer-voices)



## 8 Things You May Not Know About Daylight Saving Time

By Christopher Klein of *The History Channel*

[EDITOR'S NOTE: As we prepare for the end of Daylight Saving Time, here is an article about DST for further reading]

Springing forward and falling back may seem simple enough, but daylight saving's history has actually been quite complex—and misconceptions about it persist today. As you prepare to “fall back” and reset your watches, alarms and microwaves, explore eight facts about daylight saving time that might surprise you.

1. *It's “daylight saving time,” not “daylight savings time.”*

Many people render the term's second word in its plural form. However, since the word “saving” acts as part of an adjective rather than a verb, the singular is grammatically correct.

2. *Though in favor of maximizing daylight waking hours, Benjamin Franklin did not originate the idea of moving clocks forward.*

By the time he was a 78-year-old American envoy in Paris in 1784, the man who espoused the virtues of “early to bed and early to rise” was not practicing what he preached. After being unpleasantly stirred from sleep at 6 a.m. by the summer sun, the founding father penned a satirical essay in which he calculated that Parisians, simply by waking up at dawn, could save the modern-day equivalent of \$200 million through “the economy of using sunshine instead of candles.” As a result of this essay, Franklin is often erroneously given the honor of “inventing” daylight saving time, but he only proposed a change in sleep schedules—not the time itself.

3. *Englishman William Willett led the first campaign to implement daylight saving time.*

While on an early-morning horseback ride around the desolate outskirts of London in 1905, Willett had an epiphany that the United Kingdom should move its clocks forward by 80 minutes between April and October so that more people could enjoy the plentiful sunlight. The Englishman published the 1907 brochure “The Waste of Daylight” and spent much of his personal fortune evangelizing with missionary zeal for the adoption of “summer time.” Year after year, however, the British Parliament stymied the measure, and Willett died in 1915 at age 58 without ever seeing his idea come to fruition.

4. *Germany was the first country to enact daylight saving time.*

It took World War I for Willett's dream to come true, but on April 30, 1916, Germany embraced daylight saving time to conserve electricity. (He may have been horrified to learn that Britain's wartime enemy followed his recommendations before his homeland.) Weeks later, the United Kingdom followed suit and introduced “summer time.”

5. *Daylight saving time in the United States was not intended to benefit farmers, as many people think.*

Contrary to popular belief, American farmers did not lobby for daylight saving to have more time to work in the fields; in fact, the agriculture industry was deeply opposed to the time switch when it was first implemented on March 31, 1918, as a wartime measure. The sun, not the clock, dictated farmers' schedules, so daylight saving was very disruptive. Farmers had to wait an extra hour for dew to evaporate to harvest hay, hired hands worked less since they still left at the same time for dinner and cows weren't ready to be milked an hour earlier to meet shipping schedules. Agrarian interests led the fight for the 1919 repeal of national daylight saving time, which passed after Congress voted to override President Woodrow Wilson's veto. Rather than rural interests, it has been urban entities such as retail outlets and recreational businesses that have championed daylight saving over the decades.

6. *For decades, daylight saving in the United States was a confounding patchwork of local practices.*

After the national repeal in 1919, some states and cities, including New York City and Chicago, continued to shift their clocks. National daylight saving time returned during World War II, but after its repeal three weeks after war's end the confusing hodgepodge resumed. States and localities could start and end daylight saving whenever they pleased, a system that Time magazine (an aptly named source) described in 1963 as “a chaos of clocks.” In 1965 there were 23 different pairs of start and end dates in Iowa alone, and St. Paul, Minnesota, even began daylight saving two weeks before its twin city, Minneapolis. Passengers on a 35-mile bus ride from Steubenville, Ohio, to Moundsville, West Virginia, passed through seven time changes. Order finally came in 1966 with the enactment of the Uniform Time Act, which standardized daylight saving time from the last Sunday in April to the last Sunday in October, although states had the option of remaining on standard time year-round.

(Continued on the next page)



7. Not everyone in the United States springs forward and falls back.

Hawaii and Arizona—with the exception of the state’s Navajo Nation—do not observe daylight saving time, and the U.S. territories of American Samoa, Guam, Puerto Rico, the Virgin Islands and the Northern Mariana Islands also remain on standard time year-round. Some Amish communities also choose not to participate in daylight saving time. (Around the world, only about one-quarter of the world’s population, in approximately 70 countries, observe daylight saving. Since their daylight hours don’t vary much from season to season, countries closer to the equator have little need to deviate from standard time.)

8. Evidence does not conclusively point to energy conservation as a result of daylight saving.

Dating back to Willett, daylight saving advocates have touted energy conservation as an economic benefit. A U.S. Department of Transportation study in the 1970s concluded that total electricity savings associated with daylight saving time amounted to about 1 percent in the spring and fall months. As air conditioning has become more widespread, however, more recent studies have found that cost savings on lighting are more than offset by greater cooling expenses. University of California Santa Barbara economists calculated that Indiana’s move to statewide daylight saving time in 2006 led to a 1-percent rise in residential electricity use through additional demand for air conditioning on summer evenings and heating in early spring and late fall mornings. Some also argue that increased recreational activity during daylight saving results in greater gasoline consumption.



To read more, please visit: <http://www.history.com/news/8-things-you-may-not-know-about-daylight-saving-time>

### Supreme Court To Hear Critical Challenge Over Transgender Rights

*Gavin Grimm’s challenge to a Virginia school district’s anti-transgender restroom policy will be heard by the justices this term, the court announced on Friday.*

By Chris Geidner of [BuzzFeed](#)

WASHINGTON — The Supreme Court will hear a major case involving the Obama administration’s policies in support of transgender rights, the court announced on Friday.

Gloucester County School Board in Virginia asked the justices to hear the case, which was brought by Gavin Grimm, a transgender male student who is now a senior at the high school in the district.

The school district passed a policy limiting restroom use to students’ biological sex, and Grimm — backed by the ACLU — sued. Although he initially lost at the district court, the 4th Circuit Court of Appeals found in Grimm’s favor.

The question in Grimm’s case raises the question whether — as the ACLU and the Obama administration assert — the school’s policy violates Title IX of the Education Amendments of 1972. The Obama administration has interpreted the sex discrimination ban in Title IX to include a ban on anti-transgender discrimination.

“We are grateful that the Supreme Court has granted the School Board’s petition in this difficult case,” the school board said in a statement. “The Board looks forward to explaining to the Court that its restroom and locker room policy carefully balances the interests of all students and parents in the Gloucester County school system.”

Grimm’s ACLU attorneys called it “disappointing” that the court would allow the policy to remain in place while Grimm is finishing out his time in the school district.

“These sorts of discriminatory policies stigmatize and isolate transgender students like Gavin just because of who they are,” ACLU attorney Joshua Block said in a statement. “We look forward to presenting Gavin’s case to the Supreme Court as the next step in the fight to ensure fairness and equality for trans people across the country.”

The 4th Circuit ruled narrowly in Grimm’s favor, holding that the Obama administration’s guidance supporting transgender coverage was permitted under the regulations implementing Title IX because those regulations were ambiguous on the point. Because they are ambiguous, the Obama administration could adopt the position backing transgender inclusion.

That reasoning is referred to by [a prior Supreme Court case](#) name, Auer deference.

The school board asked for the court to reconsider Auer deference in total, as well as determining whether the administration’s position should be allowed under the Auer deference standard — the narrow, 4th Circuit ruling — or, more broadly, on whether the interpretation is correct — in other words, that sex discrimination includes anti-transgender discrimination.

To read more, please visit the following link: [https://www.buzzfeed.com/chrisgeidner/supreme-court-to-hear-critical-challenge-over-transgender-ri?utm\\_term=.soloqeewd#.vgWNOQQq7](https://www.buzzfeed.com/chrisgeidner/supreme-court-to-hear-critical-challenge-over-transgender-ri?utm_term=.soloqeewd#.vgWNOQQq7)

